REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over by Diaz (U.S. 6,762,679) in view of Conn (4,688,028). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 11 to further clarify unique features of the Hall effect sensor used in this invention. Both Diaz (Col 2, lines 29-32) and Conn (Col 3, lines 61-63) teach a magnet that rotates in response to movement of the float. The applicants teach and claim a magnet **15** that travels as driven by the upward and downward movement of the magnet **15** on the float extension **16** that follows tank level changes (Paragraph [0013]). The rotation of Diaz and Conn's magnet creates a rotational plane, not a travel plane. Diaz and Conn's magnet rotation plane is not defined by upward and downward travel of the magnet and neither teach a magnet that travels. In contrast, the applicants' magnet does travel in a travel plane that is perpendicular to the liquid surface as depicted by the two-headed travel arrow in Figures 1 and 2.

Additionally, Diaz and Conn's hall effect sensor is essentially aligned with the magnet in a rotational plane that is parallel (Diaz; Col 2, line 34) to the liquid surface. In contrast, the applicants' hall effect sensor is essentially aligned with the magnet in the travel plane that is perpendicular to the liquid surface as depicted by the travel arrow in Figures 1 and 2.

Additionally, Diaz and Conn's hall effect sensor induces a voltage signal proportional to a magnet rotating in a rotational plane. In contrast, the applicants' hall effect sensor induces a voltage signal in ratiometric proportion to the proximate magnetic field created by said magnet traveling in said upward and downward travel plane (Paragraph [0013]).

The combination of Diaz and Conn do not teach the unique magnet travel characteristics taught and claimed by the applicants. Therefore, the rejection is overcome, and applicants respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

Applicant confirms that no new matter is introduced with these amendments. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections are overcome, and that applicant's claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore earnestly solicit allowance thereof, and the issue of U.S. letters patent therefore.

Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

Applicants have now included to text of all claims in the listing of claims. The text of canceled and withdrawn claims were inadvertently removed in the initial response paper.

Respectfully submitted:

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